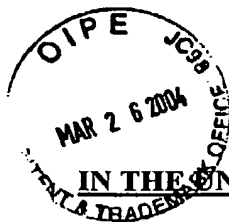


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re U.S. Patent Application of)	
OKANO et al.)	
Application Number: 10/018,430)	Art Unit 1723
Filed: December 20, 2001)	Examiner:
For: CENTRIFUGAL SEPARATOR AND SAMPLE)	Drodge, Joseph W.
PREPARATION DEVICE USING THE SEPARATOR)	
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. NITT.0050)	

Honorable Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE AND AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

Sir:

This is in response to the office action dated February 27, 2004, in the above identified application, the period for response is set to expire on May 27, 2004. Please amend the above identified application as follows: